

February 26, 2001

Dear Air Cleaner Manufacturer:

After being solicited by several manufacturers, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering the development of ENERGY STAR[®] specifications for room air cleaners. Currently, more than thirty product areas are covered by ENERGY STAR. These areas extend to a number of electronics products, including televisions and computers, as well as to several different kinds of household appliances. You may observe the scope of the ENERGY STAR initiative today by visiting the Web site at www.energystar.gov.

ENERGY STAR adds value to a category by assuring consumers that products listed are more energy efficient than conventional models. ENERGY STAR participation by manufacturers is wholly voluntary. Many companies, however, have benefited by participating both because ENERGY STAR allows for another point of competition and because the ENERGY STAR label is promoted across a wide variety of product categories.

ENERGY STAR does not intend to set a specification that all products in the market can meet. Typically, twenty-five percent of existing models will perform at a level sufficient to qualify for the label. Over time, as the population of a product category becomes more energy efficient, the program's requirements will change, although this is always done in consultation with industry.

Preliminary research is now being undertaken to determine the energy characteristics of the products in the market today. Assuming that this research confirms the validity of proceeding with the program area, EPA has set a time frame of early summer to establish a specification. This specification will be sent to you in draft for your comments and analysis. The specification sets the energy performance characteristic required and establishes or references the method(s) of test required to make program measurements. Once an ENERGY STAR specification is established, manufacturers and marketers may participate in the program area by signing a partnership agreement with EPA.

While the preliminary research is being conducted, we ask you to appoint an executive within your organization to oversee your participation and to act as a contact with EPA and its consultants. This program area will be developed under the supervision of Andrew Fanara. Andrew may be reached at (202) 564-9019 or fanara.andrew@epa.gov.

The development of this and all ENERGY STAR specifications is an open process, and we welcome your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fanara', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Fanara
ENERGY STAR Product Development